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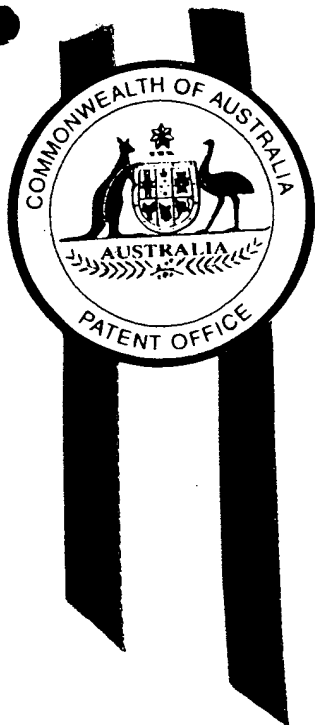
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K Ward

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**Provisional Patent Application
for
A Sterile Dry Moisturising Towelette
For use by Operating Theatre Personnel**

Paul O'Keeffe, 1-5-99

Dry skin on hands and arms is a common problem for operating theatre personnel. This is due to frequent washing with surgical skin cleansers over prolonged times. The standard scrub-time for the first operation of the day is five minutes. Subsequent scrubs may be shorter but they are sufficient to remove bacteria from the skin. Unfortunately, the natural oils in the skin are also removed leaving the hands and arms with a dry feel.

This invention seeks to remedy the problem of dry hands and arms of operating theatre personnel by providing a means for replacing skin oils and greases prior to applying sterile gloves. The invention may also provide a vehicle for the application of antiseptic to the skin and assist in the application of powderless gloves.

Sterile moisturising cream is not suitable for application to the hands and arms prior to putting on gloves because the skin surface would be slippery and the gloves would move too much on the hands.

This invention comprises a sterile towelette impregnated with the oil and/or grease base of a moisturising cream. It is preferably contained in a peel-apart pack. The preferred moisturising cream base is wool alcohols but any moisturising cream base can be used. The water content is nil or much lower than that of a moisturising cream. The cream base should be compatible with the sterilisation process, the antiseptic if also applied to the skin and the glove material.

The towelette is offered to the surgeon or nurse after hand drying. It is rubbed over the hands and forearms before applying a sterile gown and gloves.

This invention produces a moisturising effect on the skin because the gloves are immediately applied. If gloves were not applied the moisturising effect would be inferior to that of a standard moisturising cream that contains water. Use of the invention results in the moisturising cream base being applied to the skin that is then occluded by gloves and gown. Occlusion of the surface promotes absorption of the cream base into the skin.

Surgical skin cleansers often contain moisturising agents for the purpose of reducing the drying effect their use has on skin. They are not sufficiently effective as skin moisturisers. Prior to this invention there was no means of applying a non-slippery sterile skin moisturising agent to the hands and arms immediately before putting on sterile gloves.

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Surgical scrub solutions contain antiseptics that may remain as a residue on the skin. The moisturising cream base should be compatible with the residue and additional antiseptic could be applied by adding it to the moisturising cream base.

This invention may be used in a non-sterile form where it will assist in the application of powderless gloves for non-sterile procedures. Powdered gloves have been associated with latex allergy and persons so affected have to use powderless gloves that, unfortunately, are difficult to apply. Prior application of the moisturiser base will allow the gloves to slip on more easily.

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